

Public Schools of Brookline

School Committee Remote Learning Task Force Expert Advisory Panel 4: Public Health, Safety and Logistics

Final minutes of meeting (conducted via Zoom): July 10, 2020 3:00-4:30 pm

Panel members present: Nira Pollock, MD, PhD; Jenny Tam, PhD; Vishakha Sabharwal, MD; Benjamin Sommers, MD, PhD; Lakshmana Swamy, MD, MBA; Ben Linas, MD (for latter half only); Serena Rajabiun, MA, MPH, PhD (for latter half only); Elena Savoia, MD, MPH (co-chair); Dave Gacioch (co-chair)

Panel members not present: Lan Dennie, RN, BSN, CMAC; Boris Perlovsky

PSB senior staff members present: Dr. Jim Marini (for first half only); Dr. Nicole Gittens; Casey Ngo-Miller; Patricia Laham

School Committee members present: Susan Wolf Ditkoff; Mariah Nobrega, Sharon Abramowitz, Andy Liu

1. Dr. Marini was introduced as interim superintendent of schools, and the panel's updated role and reporting structure was discussed.
2. Dr. Savoia led a presentation and discussion on communication recommendations. Among other items, the discussion included a living document (Google Docs or similar) through which community questions could be solicited, aggregated, and answered.
3. Dr. Pollock gave an updated version of her presentation on potential roles of diagnostic testing. The panel discussed that Dr. Swanee Jett and the Brookline Health Department need to be involved very soon. It was discussed that further guidance from Mass. DESE is anticipated within days. Dr. Pollock and Ms. Laham, along with the co-chairs, would follow up.
4. The panel and others present discussed other items on the minds of School Committee and PSB senior staff leaders and their teams:
 - a. Ordering of PPE
 - b. What forms of PPE should be used in what settings by staff?
 - c. The need for an algorithm for when kids should stay home from school and for how long--hopefully with guidance from DESE
 - d. Frequency and nature of sanitization of buildings and contents, including with respect to impact on afterschool activities
 - e. How PSB should handle vocal music and woodwind/brass instruments
 - f. Which sports programs are sufficiently low risk to be maintained

- g. Which physical spaces in buildings present higher and lower transmission risks, and what modifications should be considered to them?
 - h. How should travel patterns into, within, and out of buildings be handled?
- 5. The panel discussed providing suggestions to PSB within 48 hours for inclusion in parent/caregiver and staff surveys next week.
- 6. The panel decided to focus next week's meeting on physical spaces and invite PSB parent Dr. Joe Allen, of Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, to present.
- 7. Adjournment.